Understanding Music 8/26/15

Sound – A disturbance in a sound producing medium (Vibrations)

* We establish connections with sounds at a very early age
  + Knock at the door = someone on the other side
* We learn to structure sound
  + Communication
* We learn to catalogue silence or absence of sound
  + Crossing the street listening for cars

Noise – Not musical tone. Any sound producing a series of irregular unpredictable pulsations. Can be part of music making

Musical Tone – Sound producing a series of regular definitive pulsations

Pitch (Frequency) – Vibrations of something. Faster vibs = high sound and vis versa

* Soprano: Highest pitch register. Highest female voices in modern choirs
* Alto: Lower female voices
* Tenor: Upper mens voices
* Bass: lowest pitch register. Lowest mens voice
  + Strings
    - Violin is soprano string.
    - Viola is alto string
    - Cello is bass/tenor string
    - String bass is bass string
    - Harp has all registers
  + Woodwind instruments
    - Flute is soprano
    - Oboe
    - Clarinet
    - Bassoon
  + Brass
    - Trumpets
    - French horns
    - Trombone
    - Tuba

Staff – Consists of 5 lines and 4 spaces used to graphically indicate the relative highness or lowness of pitch

Ledger Lines – Lines added above or below staff to indicate higher or lower pitches

Clef – symbol on a staff to designate a central note from which all notes will relate

* Treble (G clef)
  + Middle C up
* Bass (F clef)
  + Middle C down

Flat – lower pitch a half step

Sharp – raises pitch a half step

Interval – lines between notes (C to D is 2nd, C to E is 3rd, etc.)

Octave – (C to C)

Dynamics (Amplitude) – Volume, or how loud or soft something sounds

Duration – how long or short a musical tone is perceived

Timbre (Tone Color) – Sonorous quality or richness of a particular voice or instrument or group of these. Depends of amount and proportion of overtones present.

* First overtone to hear is octave
* Then the 5th
* Then the 4th
* Then the 3rd